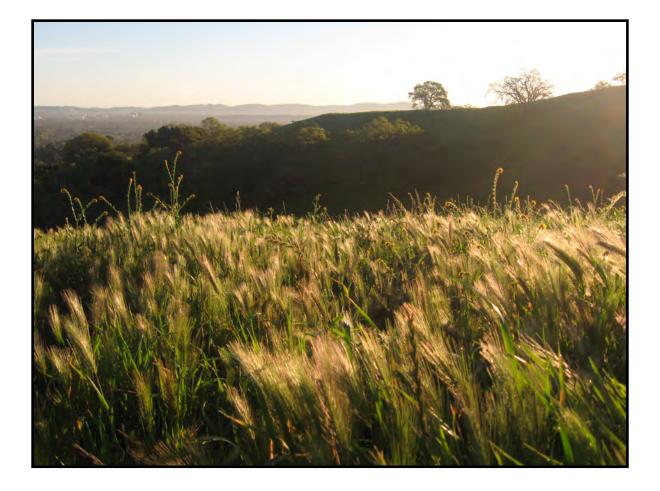
What Was Life Like in The Early Church?



By Rachel Bubb

This book came about because I've been super interested in what life was like in the early church. Part of my interest came about when I was researching what Sunday school was like over history. I was looking at the question: "Did they have Sunday school for kids back in the early church at all? How did they teach their kids? Did the kids go to church? How about the ladies. Most churches back then were house churches- how big were they?" These became questions I started looking for answers for. I figured that if I was interested in this, chances are that someone else might be too. I hope this book can help make Acts and the letters of the New Testament come to life- that they really were letters at one time in history before they became books in the Bible.

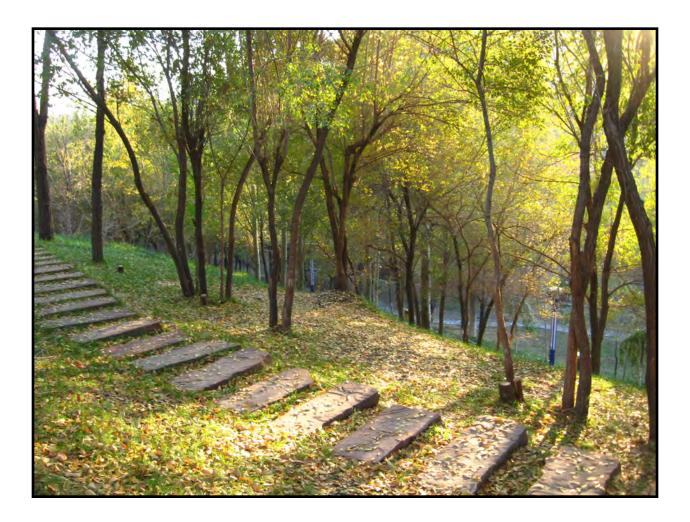


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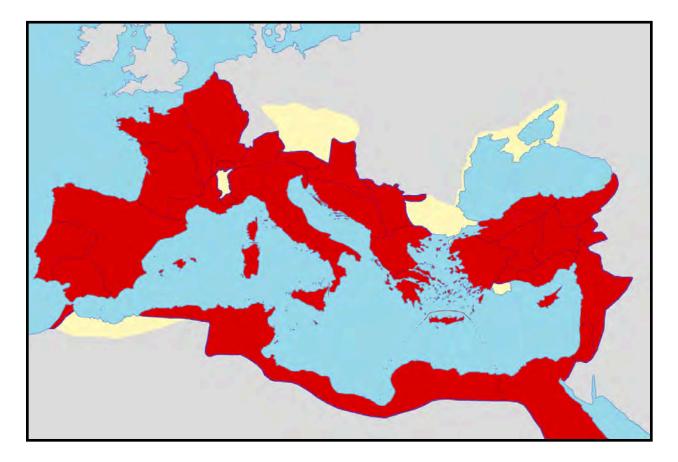
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Perhaps you've thought about what it was like in the early church before. Maybe you've even asked yourself questions like this: Where did they meet for church? Were kids part of the early church? Did they sing songs like we do today in our churches? Did they eat food together? Did they have Sunday school like we have today? This book might not necessarily answer all of your questions. Actually, I hope it'll do the opposite: inspire you to learn more and ask even more questions than these.

To start off, we should talk about the big picture: what was going on in the world at the time. Jesus died and rose again around 33 AD. At this time in history, Rome was the biggest country (the Roman Empire). It was huge and had taken over most of Europe. You can still see remains of this empire in many places around the world including Alexandria (in Egypt), the Middle East, and all over Europe. Here's a map of how big the Roman Empire was at that time.



That's huge! You can see how the **Roman Empire** completely dominated the Mediterranean Sea and controlled just about all of the trading and ships there. Jesus lived in Israel, which was under Roman control. Here's a map of how it looked like during His time (on the right). The blue big line is how the area looked like at the time of Jesus birth. A few years later, Herod died and then it was broken up and given to a few different rulers. I love maps and sometimes maps can be super helpful.

